

THE PLAYING FIELD

Scottish universities seek more funds to remain competitive

Universities in Scotland have asked the Government for an additional £168 million (\$ 344 million U.S.) to help the country's higher education sector remain competitive globally. For several years now, Scottish universities have been competing fiercely with their English counterparts for students and faculty. The Scottish Government launched *The Fresh Talent Initiative* in 2004 to attract international students and immigrants to Scotland.

Since English universities were allowed to start charging fees in 2005, Scottish principals have feared the impact the scrapping of top-up fees would have in Britain. Top universities, including Oxford, Cambridge and the London School of Economics are expected to soon start charging way more than the £3,000 (\$ 6,142 U.S.) tuition fee limit currently set, allowing them to invest millions more in their infrastructure. Scottish principals fear many top academics would be attracted to England by the money. The higher education sector in Scotland is seeking a 15 per cent real-terms increase in core funding.

Source: ["Universities seek £168m extra to compete with English counterparts."](#) Scotsman, October 17, 2007

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Foreign students allowed longer stay in New Zealand

Faced by a dwindling population caused by young Kiwis choosing to live abroad, the New Zealand government is trying to woo international students by easing visa regulations. From next month, foreign graduate students will be able spend up to a year finding work in New Zealand instead of the current six months.

Architecture and accounting graduates, who needed three years practical work to achieve professional registration, would be able to stay for three years without applying for a new permit. Also, the new laws would allow English language students to work in New Zealand while they studied. A study has indicated that between 1999 and 2001, 27% of foreign students remained in the country after graduation.

Source: ["Longer stay for foreign student job seekers."](#) The New Zealand Herald, October 24, 2007

OVER THE COUNTER

Strict action against cheating students in Kenya

The Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) will take strict action against students found cheating in this year's national examinations. They will be barred from writing any examinations for a period of two years. An extra number of invigilators have been hired to invigilate the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) that begins this month.

Paul Wasanga, Chief Executive Officer, KNEC outlined the rampant forms of cheating used by students such as collusion, impersonation and smuggling of unauthorised materials into the examination rooms. About 754 cases of collusion, 14 of impersonation and 135 of written notes were recorded in last year's KCSE examinations.

Source: ["Kenya: KNEC Takes Tough Stand On Examination Cheating."](#) All Africa, October 22, 2007

GLOBE TIPPING

Citing the @ symbol

Be mindful of misunderstandings in citing the @ symbol when giving out your e-mail address in other countries. Throughout our travels, Higher-Edge staff members have found that there are just about as many ways to name the @ symbol as there are countries in the world. Here's how to verbalize the @ symbol in the following countries:

- In the U.S. it is referred to as "at"
- In France, it's "arobas"
- In India and Bangladesh, it's "at the rate of"
- In Switzerland, it's "queue de singe" (monkey's tail)
- In Sweden, it's "snabela"- elephant's trunk!